

## CLOTHES DRYERS

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Did you know that an automatic clothes dryer eliminates consideration of the weather on wash day? In most sections of the country there are comparatively few days during the year that are ideal for outdoor clothes drying. Even in good weather, hanging clothes is no easy job. Recent studies show that the average wash weighs about 30 to 36 pounds dry; when wet, the weight is almost double. This means carrying and handling 60 or more pounds of weight each wash day. With an automatic clothes dryer, located close to the washer, the clothes may be loaded directly from the wringer or spinner basket to the dryer. In fact, you can "hang" clothes in the dryer while sitting down -- no carrying heavy baskets of wet clothes up or down steps -- no bother with clothes pins. Some farm homemakers say they gain one day a week by using a dryer, since they can wash and iron the same day.

Dryers are purchased separately, to be used with any kind of washer. They are of two general types, the tumbler and the cabinet. The cabinet type is equipped with heating elements and vertical drying racks. The tumbler or revolving cylinder -- now in most common use -- is equipped with heating elements and forced circulation of warm air. This dries the clothes in 15 to 90 minutes, depending on their weight and kind of fabric.

Most electric dryers (4400-4700 wattage) require a separate 220 volt circuit, with an individual outlet. The low wattage dryers (1650 wattage) may be operated on a regular appliance circuit. At this lower wattage, drying takes considerably longer.



A  $\frac{3}{4}$  hp. electric motor drives the perforated revolving cylinder and the fan that carries the warm air through the tumbler, and forces the moisture out of the exhaust.

Here is how to work the tumbler dryers. Turn the dial to "on". Place one washer load of wet clothes of like thickness in it. Close the door, adjust the temperature control and set the timer control. The temperature control regulates the heat for the drying of different fabrics. Some dryers provide for three temperatures to suit fabrics. Other dryers provide one temperature only, one that is safe for all fabrics.

All dryers have a time control; it not only turns the dryer on, but sets the operating time to any given limit up to 60 minutes. Included in the time control cycle is a five-minute tumbling period after the heater shuts off. This cools the clothes and makes it possible to leave them in the dryer until convenient to remove them. An average load of cotton fabrics will dry completely in 50 minutes or damp-dry ready for ironing in about 35 minutes. There is no need for sprinkling dresses, shirts and table linen; just neatly fold them when damp-dry and place in a clothes basket or plastic bag ready for ironing. A heavier starch is needed when clothes are dried in the dryer, as some of the starch is lost in the tumbling action. Dry rayons first while the dryer warms up, but never put nylon stockings or woolens in the dryer. The nylons melt and snag, and the tumbling and flexing of woolens while wet will shrink and felt them.

In some models, a light inside the dryer automatically flashes on when the door is opened and when in operation.



The dryer should be located in a well-ventilated space, because of the heat and moisture usually thrown into the room. A ventilating fan is usually recommended for this room. A constant flow of fresh, warm air through the dryer is necessary, and vents are provided for this purpose. A removable lint screen is built into the air outlet, and this screen should be frequently cleaned with a stiff-bristled brush. The air intake screen should be cleaned occasionally too. To clean the outside surface of the cabinet, use a mild soap and warm water. It is never necessary to clean the inside of the dryer.

The cost of operating a dryer is modest in comparison of benefits it gives, since ordinarily by the time the dryer is installed, the cost of electricity is in the lower rate bracket. The local rate schedule and the amount of clothes dried will determine the exact cost of current. Of course, the correct use of the dryer helps keep costs down, so it is important to follow the maker's directions.



